

Message Text

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R 152331Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114256

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: EFIN, MILL, NATO

SUBJECT: US APPROACH TOWARD ENHANCING THE ALLIED CONTRI-
-- BUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF NATO

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS REVIEWED OUR PAST EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE
OUR NATO ALLIES TO ENHANCE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE
OF EUROPE AND TO OBTAIN OFFSETS FOR US BUDGETARY AND BALANCE
OF PAYMENTS COSTS IN EUROPE. HE HAS DECIDED TO SEEK
ANOTHER OFFSET AGREEMENT WITH THE FRG, PROVIDED THAT THE
FRG DOES NOT STRONGLY OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO A NEW AGREE-
MENT. BUT IN GENERAL, GIVEN THE RECENT CHANGE IN THE WORLD
MONETARY SYSTEM AND IN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, GREATER EM-
PHASIS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ENCOURAGING OUR NATO ALLIES TO
INCREASE THE QUALITY AND EFFECIIVENESS OF THEIR OWN FORCES
THAN TO EFFORTS TO OFFSET US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND
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BUDGETARY COSTS.

2. OUR ALLIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO INCREASE THEIR DE-
FENSE EXPENDITURES, TO UNDERTAKE FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

TO UPGRADE THEIR MILITARY HARDWARE, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF EXISTING DEFENSE RESOURCES BY REDUCING THE OVERLAP AND DUPLICATION THAT EXISTS IN MANY AREAS OF NATO ACTIVITY.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US GOVERNMENT SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO OUR NATO ALLIES THAT THEIR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR OWN FORCES, PARTICULARLY THROUGH MEASURES INCREASING THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO'S OVERALL DEFENSE CAPABILITY, WILL BE VIEWED BY THE US GOVERNMENT AS THEIR MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SHARING OF THE BURDEN OF NATO DEFENSE. IN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE WITH CONGRESS, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH SHOULD STRESS THAT SUCH EFFORTS BY OUR NATO ALLIES BOTH INCREASE THE ALLIES' SHARE OF THE COMMON DEFENSE AND ADD TO THE PROTECTION OF OUR OWN SECURITY INTERESTS IN EUROPE. FINALLY, THE ANALYSIS CONTAINED IN THE 24 MARCH 1975 DPRC PAPER ON BURDENS HARING IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE SHOULD BE USED IN EXPLAINING THE REDUCED RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF BUDGETARY AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OFFSET.

4. FYI. NO SPECIFIC APPROACHES TO ALLIED GOVERNMENTS ARE ENVISAGED AT THIS TIME, BUT POSTS MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING AS SUBJECT ARISES IN CONVERSATION WITH ALLIED OFFICIALS.

5. COPIES OF DEFENSE PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE BURDEN-SHARING STUDY OF MARCH 24, 1975 BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES. END FYI.

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